

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 7 to 9 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title was objected to as not being descriptive. Accordingly, a new title is submitted herein, approval of which is courteously solicited.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being drawn to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended Claim 8 to clearly state that it is drawn to a "computer-readable storage medium" as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 were objected to because they are allegedly exactly the same. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the last element of Claim 9 which features the use of multiple heads in the output unit. Claim 1 features only a single head in the output unit. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended to clarify that the acquired gradation correction table corresponds to a recording medium to which image output is executed **and** head rank information of the output unit. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,333,790 (Kageyama) and U.S. Patent No. 6,151,135 (Tanaka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,439 (Hayashi) and U.S. Patent No. 5,969,730 (Inose).

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing method which includes a holding step for holding an original database in which a correction condition corresponding to a reproducing property of an output unit is stored, a forming step for, as calibration processing, acquiring from the original database a gradation correction table, the gradation correction table corresponding to a recording medium to which image output is executed and head rank information of the output unit to create a new database, and a correction processing step for effecting correction processing regarding input data by using the created new database. Accordingly, the calibration processing not only creates the new database but also forms a management file based on head identification information of a head used in the output unit, and the creation of the new database is executed when the output unit is exchanged.

In contrast, Kageyama discloses that the individual printer information DB (registration information, operating information) is updated every time printing is executed. However, Kageyama, fails to disclose the creation of the new database is executed when the output unit is exchanged. Accordingly, A system in accordance with the disclosures of Kageyama do not include the feature of the present invention that the new database file can be effectively created without updating the printer information unit every time the printing is executed. Nothing in either Hayashi or Inose is seen to cure this deficiency in Kageyama.

In light of the deficiencies of Kageyama, Hayashi and Inose as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 8 and 9 are directed to an apparatus, a storage medium which stores therein a program for executing an image processing method and a method, respectively, in accordance with the features of Claim 1. Applicant submits that the discussion from above in regard to Claim 1 applies equally to Claims 7, 8 and 9. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7, 8 and 9 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', is written over a horizontal line.

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